(c) the amount of foreign exchange involved therein; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the import of fishing trawlers is being centralised/rationalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The Government propose to build up a sizeable fleet of deep sea fishing vessels through indigenous construction as well as import Permissions for import so far granted are from Holland, Australia, South Korea, United States of America, Poland and others.

(c) and (d) Designs and source of import of deep sea fishing vessels by companies depend on the nature of their project. The suitability of the fishing vessels and the reasonableness of cost are considered by the Inter-ministerial Fishing Vessels Acquisition Committee as and when the applications are received. Imports of fishing vessels are approved on the merits of each such case. As such, the total cost o trawlers to be imported and the foreign exchange involved cannot be estimated in advance. At present there is no proposal to centralise import of fishing trawlers.

Blocked sewerage in Laxmibai Nagar Market, New Delhi

410. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sewerage water main in front of post office functioning in Laxmibai Nagar Market in back portion of South Delhi office of Shrimati Prem Das, Metropolitan Councillor is overflowing for the last one year causing unhygienic conditions in the area; and

(b) if no, what remedial steps are proposed to be taken to end this nuisance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Professional beggars in Delhi

411. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing of professional beggars in Delhi which has become an organised racket in the city creating nuisance at various historic places, hospitals, shopping centres etc., to the great harassment to the general public and the foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to assess the working of the Beggar Homes in the city in rehabilitating the beggars and also to remove the deficiencies if any, in the existing law to curb the menace?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No specific survey has been conducted to assess the magnitude of the problem of professional beggars in Delhi. However, no organised racket of professional beggars has come to notice.

(b) The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, is in force in Delhi. The Act provides for a comprehensive scheme for the apprehension, treatment and rehabilitation of beggars. Accordingly, 12 institutions have been set up in Delhi, with a capacity for 2,760 beggars. Appropriate measures are taken from time to time to improve the working of the legislation and that of the institutions for the beggars.